

April 6, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Seattle - South Lander Street Grade Separation FAST Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Washington Maritime Federation strongly supports the City of Seattle's application for funding of the expedited South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project. The Washington Maritime Federation is an association of associations, comprised of maritime, economic development and business organizations, ports and labor that have come together to support the maritime industry - building consensus, provide a unified voice for the industry and coordinate to drive change in matters of common interest.

The S Lander St project will construct a grade separated crossing over BNSF's tracks on South Lander Street between 1st and 4th avenues. This crossing will provide a roadway unimpeded by rail operations and remove an average of 4.5 hours of delay and 500 safety violations per day, improving the mobility of tens of thousands of people and directly benefitting freight access to port and manufacturing facilities critical to the local and national economy. With this "bottleneck" removed, the direct connections to Port of Seattle facilities and freight operational support centers will contribute to the stability of 75,000 existing jobs and an additional 25,000 jobs that are forecasted by 2040.

Today, South Lander Street is closed for an average of 4.5 hours daily due to train traffic, impacting the mobility of tens of thousands of peoples and severely impacting freight access to port and manufacturing facilities critical to the local and national economy. The impacts of rail traffic on the SODO street network will only get worse as Amtrak expands its facilities, as general purpose and freight vehicle travel volumes increase, and as passenger and freight rail volumes also increase.

Critical to our regional and state economy, South Lander Street serves as a vital route for freight and general travel in the largest manufacturing industrial center in the Pacific Northwest. Fixing South Lander Street has long been a priority of the Washington Maritime Federation as well as the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing Industrial Center.

Thank you for consideration of the City of Seattle's request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric Schinfeld  
On behalf of the Washington Maritime Federation

Cc:  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Governor Jay Inslee  
Congressman Jim McDermott